

# THE EDUCATION WORK GROUP - EDUCATION FOR EVERYONE!

## **Our Mission**

Michigan shall have a unified system of public education consistent with the practices and principles of Universal Education for all students, including all students eligible for early intervention and special education services, from birth to age 26.

### **All Children, All Together, All the Time**

What does Universal Education mean to you? The DD Council's position is that children and young adults are best educated in natural educational settings that are not segregated with respect to disability or any other dimension of human diversity. As most parents and students are aware, Universal Education in Michigan is still in the future.

### **Fair, Cost Effective, and Better for All Children**

Universal Education is fair and it could be less expensive. With Universal Education, there is less segregation in separate facilities for children and youth with disabilities. A school district would need fewer administrators, classrooms and buses. We have identified Best Practices for Universal Education. They help all students learn better, including students with disabilities.

Adopting these practices will help schools meet the outcomes of school improvement initiatives like No Child Left Behind and Education Yes!

## **Reach The Right People**

The Education Work Group (EWG) is working on several ways to improve the quality of education for all children and students across the state. One outcome is to create materials that reach the right people, in appropriate languages. To do so, the EWG will work with groups to support their

research and recommendations for education policy changes for infants, toddlers, and young people with disabilities.

With so many changes occurring in the field of education, the EWG invites parents and other



education experts to attend our meetings and share information on changes in the education field. The work group supports grants such as "Everyone Together" and "Early Childhood Inclusion". These projects are working over several years to implement the beliefs of Universal Education.

## **Keeping The Council Informed**

Education is a Council priority. The work group supports the Council's efforts to reach out to diverse people. Issues that arise are reviewed, and updated reports on the EWG work plan are given to the DD Council on a regular basis. In addition, the EWG is planning the next steps to end segregation of students with developmental disabilities. The work group will identify new education-related DD Council grant projects, secure input from Michigan's diverse communities, and make certain any projects we support address cultural competence and diversity.

## **Take A Look At Us!**

To become active in the DD Council's Education Work Group, contact the Council office at 517-334-6123. The work group generally meets monthly. Your ideas and energy would be most welcome.

# **Education** **Work Group**

## **Our Community Includes Everyone**



Michigan Developmental  
Disabilities Council



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